

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1634

INFO SECDEF

USCINCSO

CSAF

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MARR, AR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NAVY MISSION AGREEMENT

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF STATE 210217 20 NOV 72

1. IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARGENTINE PROPOSAL TO ENTER INTO A FORMAL BILATERAL AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE A LEGAL BASIS FOR SERVICES BY A GROUP OF NAVAL ADVISORS FROM THE US WHICH WOULD REGULARIZE THE GROUP'S LONG- STANDING PRESENCE HERE, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (NORTH AMERICAN DEPARTMENT) HAS PERIODICALLY INQUIRED OF THE EMBASSY WHETHER THE DELAY IN

SG REACTION IS DUE TO SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS OR IMPLIE PROCEDURAL INERTIA. ARGENTINE NAVAL AUTHORITIES HAVE INDICATED TO NAVATT THEIR VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO HAVE NEW AGREEMENT SIGNED BEFORE MAY 25.

2. THE LEADERS OF THE JUSTICIALISTA FRONT WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO ASSUME THE GOVERNMENT ON MAY 25 MADE A MAJOR ISSUE DURING THE CAMPAIGN OF " ANTI- IMPERIALSIM" AND PUTTING AN END TO FOREIGN " DEPENDENCY," MOST OF WHICH WAS DIRECTED AT THE US. ONE ONE OCCASION THE US MILITARY MISSIONS IN ARGENTINA WERE SPECIFICALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SINGLED OUT FOR CRITICISM BY EX- PRESIDENT PERON, WHO WILL HAVE GREAT INFLUENCE IN DETERMINING THE POLICIES OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. WHILE IT IS PROBABLY THAT IMPORTANT SECTORS IN THE NEW GOVERNING GROUP WILL PRESS FOR RESTRICTIONS, OR EVEN TERMINATION OF THERUS MILITARY MISSIONS, IT IS ALSO CONCEVIABLE THAT THE SOBERING RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNING MAY PREVAIL OVER CAMPAIGN RHETORIC AND THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL MOVE WITH GREAT CAUTION IN A FIELD TOUCHING SO CLOSELY UPON THE INTERESTS OF THE ARGENTINE MILITARY.

3. THE MISSION, THEREFORE, BELIEVES THAT IT BEHOOVES THE USG TO MOVE WITH PRUDENCE IN THIS MATTER. THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS UNLIKELY TO BE DETERRED IN ITS ATTITUDE BY THE SIGNING OF ANY AGREEMENTS ON THE EVE OF ITS TAKEOVER AND, IN FACT, MIGHT WELL REACT ADVERSELY IF PRESENTED WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI IN THIS AREA. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT NO ACTION BE TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO NEGOTIATION OF NEW AGREEMENTS WITH THE PRESENT LAME- DUCK GOVERNMENT OR WITH THE INCOMING AUTHORITIES UNTIL THERE IS A CLEARER IDEA OF THE LATTER' S THINKING ON THE FUTURE OF THE MILITARY MISSIONS.

4. A STATUS REPORT ON THE CURRENT IN- DEPTH REVIEW OF MISSION AGREEMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED IN ORDER TO BE PREPARED TO RESPOND PROMPTLY AND APPROPRIATELY TO WHATEVER POSITION IN ULTIMATELY ASSUMED BY THE NEXT GOA.
LODGE

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